MARVEL
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HEINBERG
CHEUNG
DELL

YOUNG AVENGERS®

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YOUNG AVENGERS

SIDEKICKS
PART SIX

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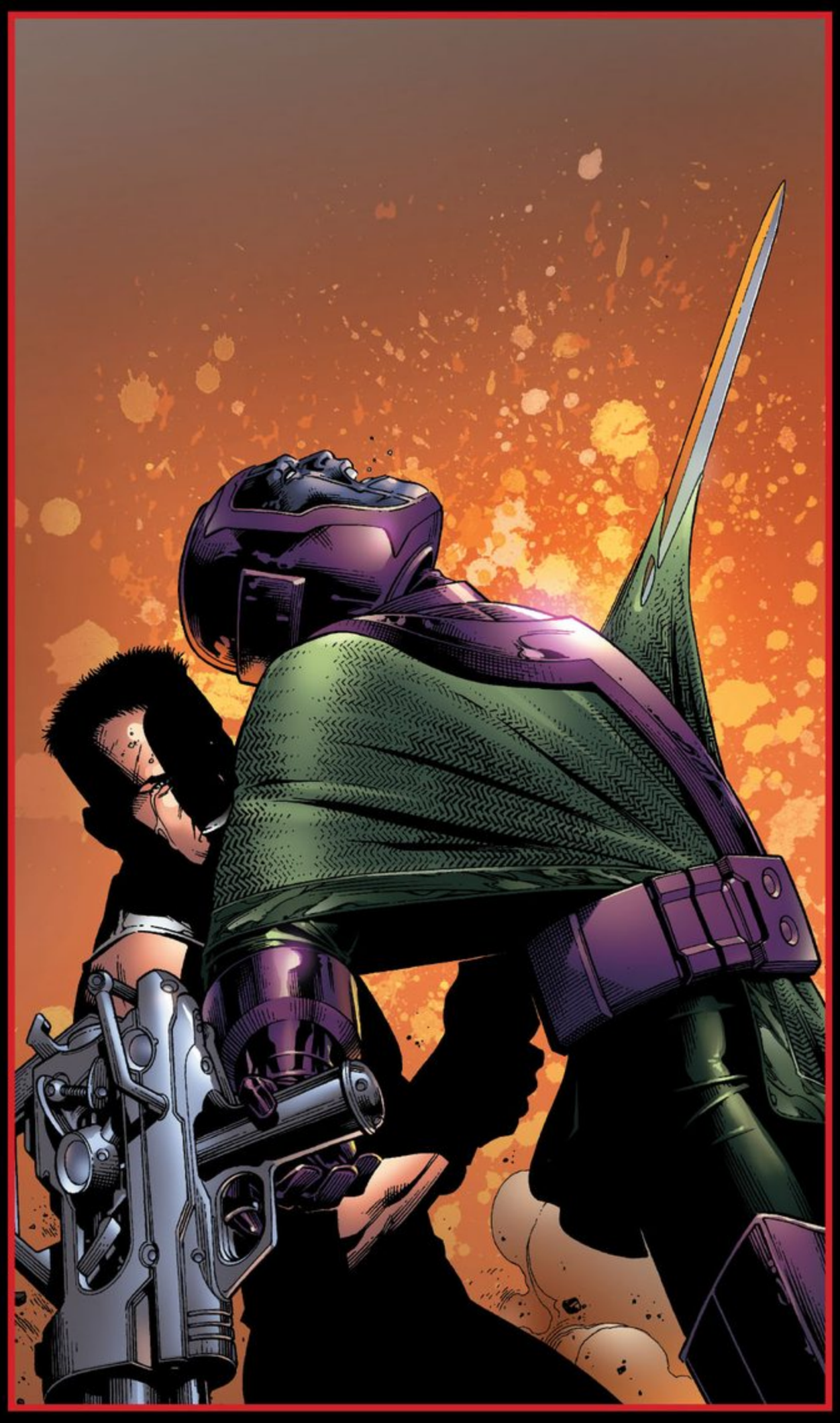

When an idealistic 30th century teenager discovers he is destined to become the time-traveling despot known as KANG THE CONQUEROR, he travels back to the 21st century to enlist the aid of Kang's greatest adversaries, THE AVENGERS.

However, when young Kang arrives in the present, he is stunned to discover that the Avengers have officially disbanded. With nowhere to turn, he uses his futuristic armor to break into Stark Industries where he downloads the programming and data files of the decommissioned android Avenger THE VISION into his armor's firmware.

Discovering a failsafe program of the Vision's designed to pinpoint the exact locations of the next wave of Avengers, young Kang puts together a new team of super-powered teens, who, in an homage to the original Avengers, present themselves as the would-be teen sidekicks of Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, and the Hulk.

Dubbed "The Young Avengers" by the press, IRON LAD, PATRIOT, ASGARDIAN, and HULKLING are soon joined by CASSIE LANG (the daughter of the recently deceased ANT-MAN) and KATE BISHOP, a resourceful teenage Avengers fan who saved the team's lives during one of their early adventures.

When KANG THE CONQUEROR arrives to return his younger self to his rightful place in the timestream, the young hero refuses to go. Desperate to ensure his own survival, Kang murders Captain America, Iron Man, and Jessica Jones. He then threatens to do the same to the Young Avengers if his younger self doesn't comply with his wishes. At which point, young Kang literally stabs Kang the Conqueror in the back, killing his older self, thereby unraveling Avengers history and the timestream itself…

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IS HE...?

HE'S *DEAD.*

YOU *KILLED* KANG THE CONQUEROR.

HE *MURDERED* JESS AND CAP AND IRON MAN.

HE WAS *ABOUT* TO KILL YOU, TOO.

BUT HE WAS... *YOU.*

NO.

HE WAS SOMEONE I MIGHT HAVE *BECOME.*

BUT NOW KANG THE CONQUEROR WILL NEVER *EXIST.*

THE PEOPLE HE *KILLED*--THE *CRIMES* HE COMMITTED--THEY'LL NEVER *HAPPEN.*

CAP AND JESS AND IRON MAN WILL BE--

THEY'RE FADING AWAY...

...JUST LIKE *KANG.*

THE TIMESTREAM'S *REPAIRING* ITSELF. YOU'LL SEE, EVERYTHING WILL BE EXACTLY THE WAY IT *WAS.*

GUYS?

THE MANSION...

IT'S BACK.

EXACTLY THE WAY IT WAS.

NOT QUITE...

OH, MY GOD...

...THEY'RE ALL DEAD.

JANET VAN

CLINTON F BARTO

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.
IT'S ALREADY *HAPPENED.*
WHAT DO WE *DO?*
THE ONLY THING WE *CAN* DO.
IRON LAD...?
PATRIOT... NO.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *ASKING* ME.
AT THIS POINT I'M NOT *ASKING.*
YOU *HAVE* TO GO HOME.
YOU *HAVE* TO BECOME KANG THE CONQUEROR.
IF YOU *DON'T--*
ELI...
MY DAD'S GRAVE...
...IT'S NOT *HERE.*
WHAT IF HE'S STILL *ALIVE?*

CASSIE--

IT'S A *LONG SHOT*, BUT IT'S *POSSIBLE*, RIGHT?

IF THE AVENGERS ARE *DEAD*, *ANYTHING* IS POSSIBLE.

YOUR DAD MIGHT BE *ALIVE*, BUT HE MIGHT NEVER HAVE MET YOUR *MOM*, AND YOU MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN *BORN*.

WHICH MEANS YOU COULD DISAPPEAR FROM THE TIMESTREAM AT ANY MOMENT, CASS.

IS THAT TRUE?

IT'S *POSSIBLE*, BUT--

AND CASSIE'S NOT THE *ONLY* ONE.

ACCORDING TO THE VISION, TEDDY AND I ARE *ALSO* RELATED TO THE AVENGERS SOMEHOW....

...SO IF *THEY'RE* GONE...

...WE COULD BE, *TOO*.

ELI, IF THERE'S EVEN A *CHANCE* HE'S STILL *ALIVE*--

JUST GIVE US AN *HOUR* TO FIND OUT.

WE DON'T *HAVE* AN HOUR.

I'M SORRY, CASS.

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

KANG SAID YOUR ARMOR COULD SEND YOU *BACK.*

I'M NOT *GOING* BACK. NOT *YET.*

THEN I'LL REACTIVATE THE *VISION* AND HAVE *HIM* SEND YOU BACK.

ELI--

BILLY WILL CAST A SPELL TO MAKE YOU FORGET THIS *EVER* HAPPENED, AND WITH ANY LUCK...

...THE AVENGERS WILL BE *ALIVE* AGAIN, JESSICA JONES WILL HAVE HER *BABY*...

...AND EVERYTHING REALLY *WILL* BE EXACTLY THE WAY IT WAS.

EVEN IF THAT MEANS WE WON'T BE YOUNG AVENGERS ANYMORE.

BILLY, *WAIT*...

I'M SORRY, IRON LAD.

NO!

IWANTIRON LADTOFORGET... IWANTIRONLADTO FORGET...

BILLY, STOP!

IWANTIRON LADTOFORGET... IWANTIRONLADTO FORGET...

PLEASE...

...SHUT UP!

POK

IRON LAD--!

TEDDY, HELP ME, I'M...!

HE'S GONE!!! WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?!?

I'M SORRY, I'M SO SORRY--

IT WASN'T *IRON LAD.*

IT'S THE *TIME-STREAM--*

BRING HIM **BACK** OR I **SWEAR** I'LL--

TEDDY!

WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO ME...?

OH, MY GOD...

WHAT HAVE I *DONE?*

IT'S OKAY...

EVERY-THING'S GONNA BE OKAY...

...BUT YOU HAVE TO GO *BACK* NOW.

I KNOW.

HOLD THE ARMOR FOR ME?

YOU'RE NOT GONNA PUT IT *ON?*

I CAN'T TAKE IT *WITH* ME OR IT'LL AFFECT THE TIMESTREAM.

BETTER TO LEAVE IT HERE WITH *YOU...*

...AND THE VISION.

I AM THE VISION.

VISION, I NEED YOU TO USE THE ARMOR'S CHRONAL PROGRAMMING TO OPEN A PORTAL THAT WILL SEND ME *HOME*.

THE COORDINATES SHOULD BE ON FILE.

SEARCHING...

COORDINATES LOCKED.

CHRONAL PORTAL ACTIVATED.

ONE LAST THING...

...TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY FRIENDS.

I'M SORRY, ELI.
FOR *EVERYTHING.*
WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?
WITHOUT YOU, *NONE* OF THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED.
AND BILLY AND TEDDY WOULD STILL *BE* HERE.
THEY'LL BE *BACK.*
SO WILL *YOU.*
BUT I'LL BE KANG THE CONQUEROR.
AND I WON'T *REMEMBER* ANY OF THIS, SO, PLEASE...
...FORGIVE ME.
WE'LL *REMIND* YOU.
PROMISE?

I JUST WANT YOU GUYS TO KNOW...

...I LOVED BEING A YOUNG AVENGER.

THOOOM

CASS? YOU ALL RIGHT?
EVERYBODY OKAY?
OUR UNIFORMS...
WE'RE STILL YOUNG AVENGERS.
DOES THAT MEAN IT DIDN'T WORK?
THAT IRON LAD DIDN'T GROW UP TO BECOME KANG?
GUYS...
...THE MANSION.
THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE KANG SHOWED UP.
AND THE STATUARY GARDEN...
THAT BLUE LIGHT...
BILLY...

EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?

A LITTLE *DISORIENTED*, BUT--

SOME OF US *MORE* THAN A LITTLE.

THANKS, CAP.

ELI, IS IRON LAD...?

HE WENT *BACK.*

AND *NOW* IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED AFTER KANG SHOWED UP... NEVER HAPPENED.

SO, HOW COME WE *REMEMBER* IT?

SEE, *THIS* IS WHY I HATE TIME TRAVEL.

C'MON, LET'S GET YOU KIDS HOME.

AND *THEN* WHAT?

YOU STILL WANT TO *"TRAIN"* US?

OR WERE YOU JUST *SAYING* THAT SO WE WOULDN'T USE OUR POWERS TO *STOP* YOU FROM CALLING OUR PARENTS?

BECAUSE WE *COULD*, YOU KNOW.

IN MY OPINION, YOU KIDS HAVE *MORE* THAN PROVEN YOURSELVES HEROES TONIGHT.

BUT...

BUT...

...IF YOU *EVER* PUT THOSE UNIFORMS ON AGAIN, IRON MAN AND I WILL DO EVERY-THING IN OUR POWER TO SHUT YOU DOWN FOR GOOD.

BUT WE COULD *HELP* YOU. YOU COULD *TRAIN* US.

WE CAN'T.

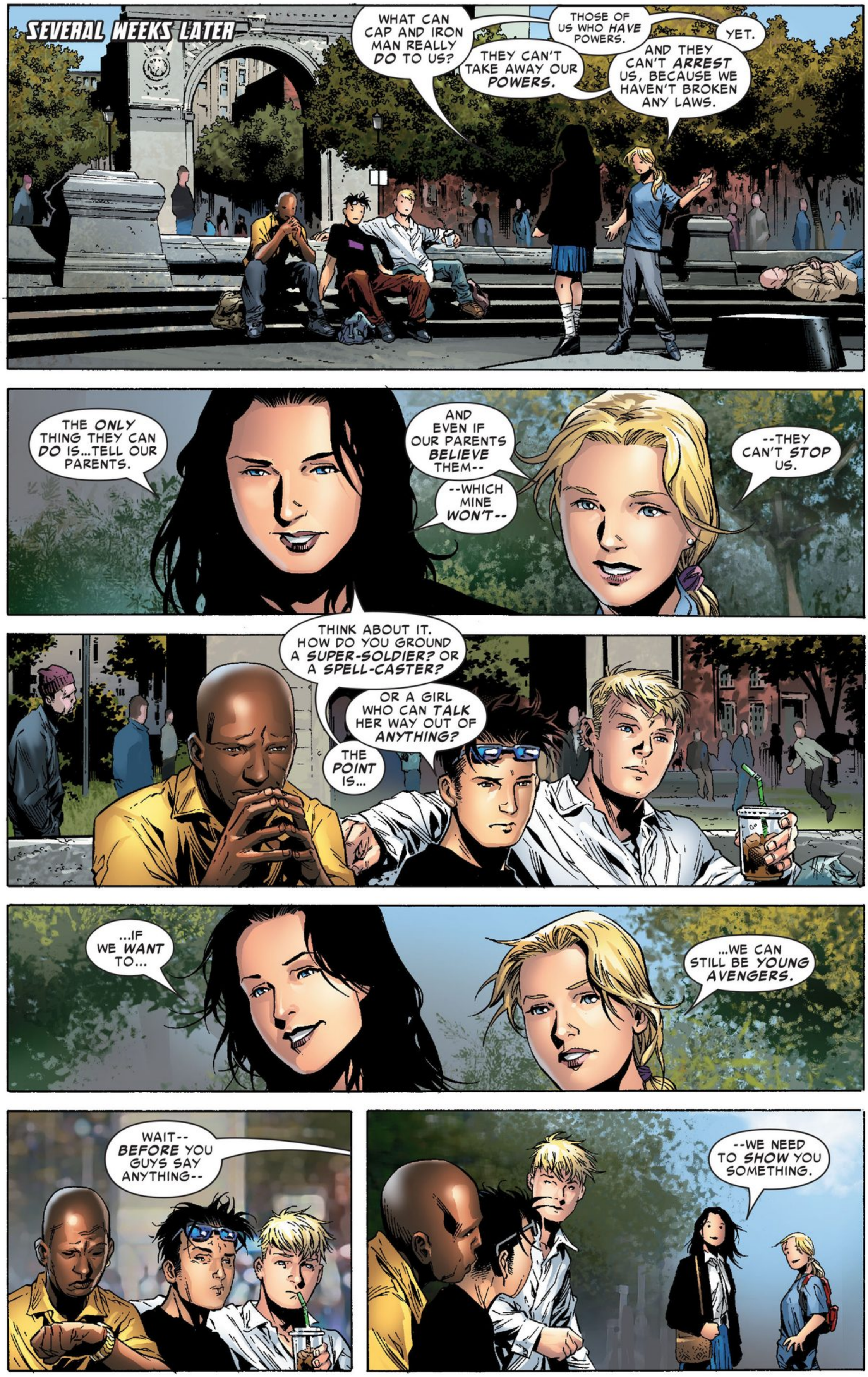
NOT WITHOUT YOUR PARENTS' CONSENT.

BUT IF YOU WANT US TO ASK YOUR PARENTS...

UM... THAT'S OKAY.
I SHOULD PROBABLY GET HOME.
ME, TOO.
YOU MIND FLYING ME?
ANYBODY ELSE NEED A LIFT? CASSIE?
BEFORE YOU GO...
...I NEED YOU TO LEAVE YOUR *GEAR* WITH *US.*
THE BOW, THE SHIELD, THE THROWING STARS--
BUT THOSE ARE *MINE.*
NOT ANYMORE.
C'MON GUYS.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING...
...AREN'T WE?

WELL...
...IT WAS FUN WHILE IT *LASTED.*
IT'S NOT OVER *YET.*
BUT CAP SAID--
CAP SAID HE WOULDN'T *TRAIN* US. SO WE'LL TRAIN ON OUR *OWN.*
NO, CAP SAID HE'D SHUT US *DOWN.* AND I, FOR ONE, DON'T WANT TO MAKE AN ENEMY OF CAPTAIN AMERICA.
THAT'S *NOT* WHY I GOT INTO THIS.
THEN WHY *DID* YOU?
BECAUSE...
...I DON'T KNOW...
...I WANTED TO *HELP.*
WE *ALL* DID.
AND DO YOU HAVE *ANY* IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE OUT THERE COULD *USE* OUR HELP?
WE CAN'T JUST *STOP* BECAUSE CAPTAIN AMERICA THINKS WE'RE TOO *YOUNG.*
WHAT ABOUT OUR PARENTS?
MY MOM WOULD *KILL* ME.
MY MOM WOULD *INSTITUTIONALIZE* ME. MY *DAD* WOULD KILL ME.
SORRY, KATE.

C'MON, CASS, LET'S GET YOU HOME.
KATE? NEED A RIDE?
NOT AT ALL. ELI? YOU COMING?
YOU DON'T MIND?
NO, THANKS. I'M GONNA WALK.
TO THE *BRONX?*
TO THE *SUBWAY.*
SO...
...I GUESS THIS IS *IT*, HUH?
ONLY IF YOU *WANT* IT TO BE.
OH, AND YOU *DROPPED* THIS AT THE CATHEDRAL.
"WHAT IF WE KEPT THE TEAM *GOING?*"


SEVERAL WEEKS LATER
WHAT CAN CAP AND IRON MAN REALLY DO TO US?
THEY CAN'T TAKE AWAY OUR POWERS.
THOSE OF US WHO HAVE POWERS.
YET.
AND THEY CAN'T ARREST US, BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T BROKEN ANY LAWS.
THE ONLY THING THEY CAN DO IS...TELL OUR PARENTS.
AND EVEN IF OUR PARENTS BELIEVE THEM--
--WHICH MINE WON'T--
--THEY CAN'T STOP US.
THINK ABOUT IT. HOW DO YOU GROUND A SUPER-SOLDIER? OR A SPELL-CASTER?
OR A GIRL WHO CAN TALK HER WAY OUT OF ANYTHING?
THE POINT IS...
...IF WE WANT TO...
...WE CAN STILL BE YOUNG AVENGERS.
WAIT-- BEFORE YOU GUYS SAY ANYTHING--
--WE NEED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

SO, BILLY, ABOUT YOUR NEW *CODE NAME--*

WHY DO I NEED A NEW CODE NAME?

BECASUSE YOU'RE *NOT* AN ASGARDIAN, YOU'RE A *WARLOCK.*

PLUS, YOU NEED A NAME THAT WON'T BECOME A NATIONAL *JOKE* WHEN THE PRESS FINDS OUT ABOUT YOU AND TEDDY.

I *DEFINITELY* NEED A NEW CODE NAME.

PLEASE BE KIDDING.

WIZARD BOY? MAGIC LAD?

ACTUALLY, *STATURE* AND I WERE THINKING--

WAIT. WHO?

THAT'S *MY* NEW CODE NAME...

STATURE.

AND *MINE* IS?

WICCAN.

WICCAN...

I DON'T *HATE* IT.

WOULD I STILL BE "HULKLING"?

WHAT *ELSE* DO YOU CALL A KID WHO'S HALF-HULK, HALF-CHANGELING?

"EDIFICE"? "FACADE"?

"HULKLING" IS SOUNDING BETTER AND BETTER.

WHAT ABOUT *YOUR* CODE NAME, HAWKEYE?

I'M *NOT* CALLING MYSELF "HAWKEYE."

WEAPON-WOMAN? TASK-MISTRESS?

I LIKED "HAWKINGBIRD."

I DIDN'T.

HERE WE *ARE*.
BISHOP PUBLISHING?
IT *USED* TO BE.
NOW IT'S OUR *LAIR*.
PUBLISHING est 1924
WE HAVE AN ACTUAL *LAIR*?
RIGHT *NOW* WE HAVE AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE.
BUT WITH A LITTLE TIME, A LITTLE PLANNING, AND A *LOT* OF MY FATHER'S MONEY--
BUT CAP SAID, IF WE EVER PUT OUR *UNIFORMS* ON AGAIN--
I *KNOW* WHAT CAP SAID.
WHICH IS WHY I GOT US *NEW* UNIFORMS.
HOW DID YOU--?
THE OLD *ONES* WERE SHREDDED, MY DAD'S BEYOND WEALTHY, AND I'VE GOT A FEW CONNECTIONS IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY.
I DON'T KNOW, KATE...
C'MON, GUYS...

"...AT *LEAST* TRY THEM ON."

SO, WE'RE JUST GOING TO COME RIGHT OUT AND *TELL* OUR PARENTS WE'RE SUPER HEROES?

MIGHT AS WELL.

WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO COME OUT TO THEM AT *SOME* POINT.

THE THING IS, EVEN IF WE *DO* TELL OUR PARENTS...

...IT DOESN'T MEAN CAP AND IRON MAN ARE GOING TO APPROVE.

THEY'RE *NOT* GOING TO APPROVE...

...BUT SINCE WHEN HAS *THAT* EVER STOPPED US?

NEXT: FAMILY MATTERS

EMPIRE
ZONE
EMPIRE
ZONE
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